

## PAX CHRISTI USA COMMUNITY LENTEN SERVICE – week 2

*Second week of Lent – [Readings are from Tuesday, March 6](#)*

### Welcome

*We'll be remembering tonight: **Jim Hubley**, long-time member of Pax Christi Minnesota; **J. Allan Sawyer**, long-time member of Pax Christi Northern California; and **Sr. Dianna Ortiz**, OSU Pax Christi USA Teacher of Peace and former National Staff member*

# Lent 2023

**Witnesses on the way**

*So she ran and went to Simon Peter and to the other disciple whom Jesus loved, and told them.  
(John 20: 2)*

### Opening song

### Opening Prayer:

Come, Holy Spirit, breathe down upon our troubled world.  
Shake the tired foundations of our crumbling institutions.  
Break the rules that keep you out of all our sacred spaces, and from the dust and rubble, gather up the seedlings of a new creation.  
Come, Holy Spirit, enflame once more the dying embers of our weariness.  
Shake us of our complacency. Whisper our names once more, and scatter your gifts of grace with wild abandon.  
Break open the prisons of our inner being and let your raging justice be our sign of liberty.  
Come, Holy Spirit, and lead us to places we would rather not go; expand the horizons of our limited imaginations.  
Awaken in our souls dangerous dreams for a new tomorrow, and rekindle in our hearts the fire of prophetic enthusiasm.  
Come, Holy Spirit, whose justice outwits international conspiracy; whose light outshines spiritual bigotry, whose peace can overcome the destructive potential of warfare, whose promise invigorates our every effort to create a new heaven and a new earth, now and forever.

**ALL: Amen.**

**First reading:** From the book of Daniel...

Great and awesome God, you who keep your merciful covenant toward those who love you and observe your commandments! We have sinned, been wicked and done evil; we have rebelled and departed from your commandments and your laws. We have not obeyed your servants the prophets, who spoke in your name to our rulers, our ancestors, and all the people of the land. Justice, O God, is on your side; we are shamefaced even to this day: we, the people of Judah, the residents of Jerusalem, and all Israel, near and far, in all the countries to which you have scattered them because of their treachery toward you. O God, we are shamefaced, like our rulers and our ancestors, for having sinned against you. But yours, O God, are compassion and forgiveness! Yet we rebelled against you and paid no heed to your command, O God, to live by the law you gave us through your servants the prophets.

The word of God. **ALL: Thanks be to God.**

**Gospel reading:** From the gospel of Luke...

Jesus said to his disciples: "Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful."

"Stop judging and you will not be judged. Stop condemning and you will not be condemned. Forgive and you will be forgiven. Give and gifts will be given to you; a good measure, packed together, shaken down, and overflowing, will be poured into your lap. For the measure with which you measure will in return be measured out to you."

The gospel of our God. **ALL: Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.**

**A reflection from this year's Lenten reflection booklet – Pax Christi USA Ambassador of Peace Dr. Pearlette Springer:** Pearlette will read her reflection and offer a few additional words to expand it to include the context we're living in today.

*Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful. Stop judging and you will not be judged.  
Stop condemning and you will not be condemned. (Lk 6:37)*

The book of Daniel reminds us that we have been sinful and unfaithful. Utilizing our free will, we choose actions that separate us from The Sacred ... alienating us from God. Matthew, on the other hand, reminds us that those sinful actions that we willingly choose, do come back and bite us. What we do to others will be done to us. He reminds us that if and only if we stop judging and condemning, we will no longer be judged or condemned. In other words, being in right relationship with God and the people of God is the priority, or at least should be.

The dignity of the human person is what we call it in the Catholic world — giving respect and recognition to all human persons, from conception to death. This is what Martin Luther King Jr. talked about. This is what Malcolm X spoke about. This is what Rosa Parks demanded. This is what Medgar Evers worked towards. This is what Chaney, Goodman, and Schwern died for. This is why the Pax Christi Anti-Racism Team was created.

Yet, we continue to use our individual will ... our freedom to choose to step on the will of our brothers and sisters ... overshadowing the Will of God.

*Spend a few minutes examining your conscience. Then make a list of those times that you **did not** risk the consequences to stand for the dignity of another human person. Ask yourself, how do I seek reconciliation and return to a right relationship with God and neighbor?*

### **Silent reflection**

We invite you to quietly reflect on tonight's readings and reflection, and to consider this Lenten question from the Pearlette's reflection: ***Spend a few minutes examining your conscience. Then make a list of those times that you did not risk the consequences to stand for the dignity of another human person. Ask yourself, how do I seek reconciliation and return to a right relationship with God and neighbor?***

After our prayer service is over, we encourage you if you are with others, to share your answer to tonight's question. If you aren't with others but would like to share in a small group after tonight's

prayer, we'll send everyone into breakout rooms with a few other people to share. We'll take now just about 3-4 minutes of silence to reflect quietly.

(In preparation for the Prayers of the Faithful, feel free to enter into the chat any prayers you have that you want those of us on this call to lift up over the coming week.)

### **Prayers of the faithful**

Our response is: God of justice, hear our prayer.

### **Closing prayer**

#### **Prayer: Dedicated to Service, by Sharon Raynor, MKLM**

Pack nothing.

Bring only your determination to serve and your willingness to be free.

Only surrender to the need of the Time—

To love justice and walk humbly with God.

Set out in the dark.

I will send fire to warm and encourage you.

I will be with you in the fire

And I will be with you in the cloud.

You will learn to eat new food

And find refuge in new places.

I will give you dreams in the desert

To guide you safely home to that place you have not yet seen.

The stories you tell one another by the fires in the dark

Will make you strong and wise.

You will get to where you are going

By remembering who you are.

Touch each other and keep telling stories. Amen.

*(In 1-2 minutes everyone who wants to stay on the call will be sent to breakout rooms to discuss tonight's reading, reflection and Lenten question. Breakout rooms will automatically close after 20 minutes.)*